

## REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 5-7, 9, 14, 20-22, 26, 30, 39-44, 49-50, and 53-56 are pending. Claims 1-4, 5-7, 9, 14, 20-22, 26, 30, 39-44, 49-50, and 53 have been amended to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Claims 54-56 have been added. Support for claims 1-4, 5-7, 9, 14, 20-22, 26, 30, 39-44, 49-50, and 53 as amended and for new claims 54-56 can be found throughout the specification as filed, for example at Example 10 at page 92 and in the originally filed claims. Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

### Election/Restriction

The Examiner restricted the claims to two groups. See Office Action at page 2. Applicants elect Group 1, claims 1-52 “drawn to a composition comprising first and second oligomeric compounds wherein one compound comprises nucleosides other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry.”

The Examiner further required election of a single species “as follows: the 2'-substituent groups recited in claim 29.” Office Action at page 3. Claim 29 (now canceled) recited compositions comprising oligomeric compounds wherein “each of said 2'-substituent groups is *independently*, -F, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub> . . .” (emphasis added). Thus, according to claim 29, each nucleoside of the oligomeric compound could comprise a different 2'-substituent, provided that each is selected from among those listed. By requiring Applicants to elect a single substituent, the Examiner effectively requires uniform substitution. Applicants should be entitled to elect any species within the claims. To be fully responsive, Applicants elect 2'-fluoro substituents with traverse.

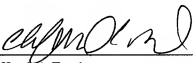
The Examiner required Applicants to identify which claims are “readable upon the elected species.” Office Action at page 3. Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 5-7, 9, 14, 20-22, 26, 30, 39-44, 49-50, and 54-56 are readable on compositions comprising oligomeric compounds wherein at least one nucleoside comprises a 2'-fluoro substituent. Applicants note that claims 55 and 56 are not readable on compositions wherein each nucleoside of the first oligomeric compound comprises a 2'-fluoro substituent, but does read on certain compositions wherein at least one nucleoside comprises a 2'-fluoro substituent.

FEES

A four month Extension of Time is requested. It is believed that no other fee is due with this response. However, if an additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account 50-0252, referencing docket number CHEM0021USA.

Respectfully submitted,

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